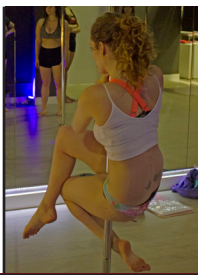


CAMPUS

Spread the net

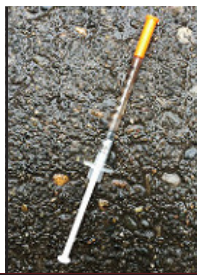
Langara students raise \$14,000 with Rick Mercer to stop the spread of malaria in Africa. P3



LIFESTYLES

Pole dance boom

Once seen as a risqué trend, pole dancing is now more widely accepted. P5



NEWS & FEATURES

Legalizing heroin

Is heroin assisted therapy a solution to the city's ongoing fentanyl overdose crisis? P7

PINNACLE COLLEGE MEDIA AWARDS
NEWSPAPER
of THE YEAR
★ 2015 ★
2nd PLACE
★ 2016 ★

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Langara grads laid off

Journalism industry cuts affect alumni

■ By TANNER BOKOR

Vancouver's journalism industry is reeling from yesterday's announcement that CTV Vancouver cut all local sports programming, on top of 54 layoffs at the *Vancouver Sun* and the *Province* last week.

The Postmedia Network Inc.-owned papers eliminated nine reporting jobs and four of the journalists were under the age of 35.

"I knew going into it that the job situation was precarious; everyone warned us not to count on getting a really good job right out the gate," said 2014 Langara journalism grad Nick Eagland, who was the youngest journalist at the *Province* to lose his job. "I figured it might happen eventually, but I was hoping it would take a bit longer."

The loss of reporters across various media markets, especially younger reporters, is causing fears in the media community of a void in local coverage.



NICK EAGLAND
LANGARA GRAD

Langara journalism department and freelance journalist for the *Globe and Mail*. She thinks outlets are realizing their pockets are no longer deep.

"They're really targeting a bit more effort in doing stories with big impact that the public cares about and are investigative," Bula said.

It isn't just Vancouver that has been affected. In January, 21 combined layoffs were announced at the Postmedia-owned *Ottawa Citizen*, *Montreal Gazette* and *Windsor Star*. Last week, Black Press announced that the *Surrey Leader* and *Surrey Now* papers would merge into a single brand with staffing changes to come.

Stephanie Ip, a recently laid off journalist and 2011 graduate of Langara College journalism, said journalists are still needed to serve the public interest.

"We're always going to need those people who aren't scared to ask those questions and know what details they're looking for and constantly pushing for that story to get out there," Ip said. "That's what really matters."

CHECK OUT OUR EXCLUSIVE VIDEO
langaravoice.ca

Art community loses First Nations icon....P4



Indigenous artist Beau Dick's Bookwus Mask photographed at Vancouver's Douglas Reynolds Gallery SUBMITTED PHOTO

Poisoned eagles dying

Littered bullets may be root of raptor deaths

■ By CHELSEA POWRIE & SEAN HITREC

Bald eagles in the Lower Mainland are dying from lead poisoning in distressingly high numbers, and according to the Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society, the culprit may be bullets.

Technology at OWL, acquired around two years ago, allows them to confirm that lead is present in an eagle's bloodstream and in what quantity, which in turn dictates their treatment decisions. Now, the society's manager Rob Hope has noticed the incidents of poison increasing.

"Ninety-five per cent of the reasons birds here at the centre are here are all human caused," Hope said. "What we're seeing more of now is lead poisoning."

OWL's lead testing technology allows for them to save more eagles, but it comes at a cost. Medication for lead poison costs \$600 for every 10 vials, and the society is going through around two a day. Some extreme cases are even pricier.

"We had a golden eagle a couple years ago that we put six treatments through," Hope said. "We were probably looking at about \$6,000 by the time we got that bird back to the wild."

Hope's theory behind the incidents is lead found in bullets, ingested by

eagles scavenging the remains where an animal was killed by a hunter. Paul Gibson of the Delta Police Department said there are no laws around hunting cleanup.

"It's just hunter's etiquette as far as what's left behind," Gibson said.

Julia Ponder, executive director of the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center and assistant professor of veterinary medicine, confirmed traces of lead from kill sites could do serious harm.

"Just a [fragment] or two the size of a piece of pencil lead is enough to kill a bald eagle," Ponder said.

In B.C., non-toxic shot, meaning less than one per cent lead in weight, is legally required for hunting all waterfowl. However, hunters seeking upland game like grouse and pheasants, doves and pigeons and mammals like deer and elk may use lead.

Bryan Mymko, owner of Stillwater Sporting Ltd. in Ladner, explained he sells far more boxes of steel bullets than lead, despite lead being far cheaper. Mymko also felt hunters often get the raw side of public opinion in conservation matters, considering surcharges on their hunting licenses and fees go toward the Hunting Conservation Trust Foundation.

"These are our birds to protect just as much as everyone else," Mymko said. "Hunters are paying for everything. We're the ones that protect the ani-

mals."

Hope is also a hunter, but he chooses to shoulder the extra cost of steel bullets.

"I think if one person can change, the next person will change and eventually, hopefully, lead will be out of the environment," Hope said.

LISTEN TO OUR EXCLUSIVE PODCAST
langaravoice.ca



A bald eagle with lead poisoning waits for treatment at OWL.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Homeless forced back on streets

City focuses on mid-income rentals; 250 kicked out of shelters

■ By SASHA LAKIC

As Vancouver's mayor focuses on rental housing for middle-income earners, 250 of the city's homeless will be on the streets again by Friday.

According to the Carnegie Community Action Project, the nine temporary winter shelters throughout downtown Vancouver will close March 31 and homelessness advocates are calling on the city to keep the shelters open. Meanwhile, at Tuesday's city council meeting, a "housing reset" plan was discussed to diversify the affordability of Vancouver rental units according to income levels.

Maria Wallstam, Carnegie's project coordinator, criticized the city's approach and thinks mitigating homelessness should be the priority.

Some of her recommendations included keeping the temporary shelters open year round, raising welfare to "at least \$1500" per month for single people, buying hotels to house homeless people and building 10,000 social housing units per year.

"Without [the shelter] I would probably be dead. I have no doubt."

—MICHAEL MUIR, VANCOUVER RESIDENT

"Most of that plan is building housing for middle-income class people, who make \$50,000 or more per year," Wallstam said. "Those are not the people who are suffering the most severe effects of this housing crisis."

City council plans on tripling the amount of rental units for those making less than \$50,000 a year and doubling the number for those earning between \$50,000 and \$80,000. There are provisions on homelessness, which should be "brief, rare and one-time," but details are scarce.

Michael Muir, a retired government employee who has been staying at the Gathering Place at Seymour Street and Helmcken Street for over six months said the shelter saved his life.

"Once my disability money is gone, I am penniless," Muir said. "Without the Gathering Place, I would probably be dead. I have no doubt about it."

The city is scheduled to deliver a report on single-resident occupancies, a housing option used by many low-income residents, by the first week of April.

Inspiring Vancouver

Parkinson's won't dim his hopes

Former filmmaker and transit operator is hoping for a cure

■ By CHRISTOPHER THOROSKI

Amanpal Sara is permanently confined to an electronic wheelchair after being diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease nearly 12 years ago. His speech is nearly inaudible and he no longer has the physical ability to do the activities that he loves.

Parkinson's is a long-term degenerative disorder of the nervous system that affects a person's movement and coordination. On April 11 World Parkinson's Disease Day will take place around the world to help spread awareness of the disease and the work put forth by organizations dedicated to eradicating it. Sara, now 60 years old, hopes that medical treatment methods will continue to improve.

"I'm quite hopeful that in two or three years a cure will be found and I shall be able to play soccer, cricket and badminton again, as well as do bhangra and karate again," Sara said. "I could utilize my energy and efforts to produce good movies which will contribute towards making lives livable."

Sara immigrated to Canada from India in 1979 and began driving taxis. Years later, he began driving buses for BC Transit. From film making to driving buses and taxis, Sara had been more than active in South Vancouver for 35 years. In his spare time, he would write short stories, poetry and plays.

Ujjal Dosanjh, a former B.C. premier and federal Liberal cabinet minister, is a first cousin of Sara. Dosanjh has followed his accomplishments and he admires Sara's literary influence in the Punjabi community.

"He's a brilliant writer, he has done some wonderful short stories, translations of English work to Punjabi. If



Ujjal Dosanjh visits his cousin Amanpal Sara at the George Pearson Centre. PHOTO BY SUKHWANT DHILLION

this [Parkinson's] hadn't happened, he would be a writer to reckon with," Dosanjh said.

Additionally, Dosanjh praises his cousin's community activism and says Sara helped him in his 1979 NDP campaign. Dosanjh contributes his proactive community involvement to their grandfather's participation in the Indian independence movement.

"He's an activist...he always tried to get involved," Dosanjh said. "So, that's in him and I think we inherit that partly from my maternal grandfather, who was a freedom fighter. He shares that with me."

Every few weeks Dosanjh drops by the George Pearson Centre and pay Sara a visit. However, because of privacy restrictions at the centre, residents are

unable to use the internet. In the eyes of Dosanjh, this is very limiting for his cousin and is unfortunate because Sara still has a lot of stories that have not yet been published.

"He feels he has a lot to share," said Dosanjh. "His literature that he wrote is now prescribed to some universities in Punjab. He is a very well-known short story writer back home."

Everyday role models

In the first part of a two-part series, we showcase inspiring Vancouverites who stand apart and inspire our community.

Stand-up comedy saved her

Being addicted to her dream helped her through mental illness

■ By JASON GILDER

If not for her life-long dream of performing stand-up comedy, Melanie Rose may not be alive today.

A signed Yuk Yuks Canada comedian of 10 years, Rose desired a career in stand-up comedy since she was 11 years-old. The majority of her material is based upon her past experiences of bi-polar disorder, depression, and a failed marriage to create an engaging stand-up gig.

Rose recalls her first performance at the Stand-up for Mental Health show 11 years to indicate that stand-up was for her.

"I was hooked, it was like a drug," Rose said. "I was high on it."

Rose said the euphoria of the first show led to her losing three straight days of sleep. Rose was inspired by comedy legend Carol Burnett. Rose has vivid memories of staying up late at night with her grandmother and wanting to jump into the TV set and tell jokes on stage.

Another inspiration of her Heavy Mental Comedy show is her experiences working at a homeless shelter at First United Church in the Downtown Eastside. Rose points out that many of the people living in the homeless shelter deal with not only mental health issues, but drug and alcohol addictions as well. She says these addictions can change a person drastically, especially in their late-teens, early-twenties.

"A young adult can look fine one day, and then three or four months later they are a completely different person," Rose said. "It's very heartbreaking."

Rose also said that a large number of shelter residents are in the age range of 18-21 years old.

A main goal of Rose's is to expand her already existing Heavy Mental comedy show, a production to bring awareness to mental health issues. Although she has previously performed this show in Vancouver, Rose hopes to increase its popularity outside British Columbia.

"I want to expand it through all of Canada," Rose said. "To get that kind of exposure would be huge."

Rose recently performed for Yuk Yuks in London, Ontario, her first paid Yuk Yuks gig outside of B.C. She plans to do her next Vancouver Heavy Mental show this April.

MENTAL HEALTH IN CANADA

Very common

In a given year, one in five experience mental health issues.

Youth at risk

Seventy per cent of people in the 15 to 24 age group affected by mental health issues.

Life expectancy

Mental illness can reduce life expectancy by 10 to 20 years.

SOURCE: CENTRE FOR ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH

Coin collecting shops rarified

With a shift to online, only a handful of the shops are left

■ By EVAN HAGEDORN

Entering Chantou Coins & Stamps in South Vancouver you may be startled by the lack of customers or be overwhelmed by the plethora of collectibles and memorabilia. Coming across a coin and stamp shop like Chantou in Vancouver however has become a rarity — there is only handful left and as the coin business increasingly shifts online, the rareness will only increase.

Giuseppe Iorio, the owner of Chantou Coins & Stamps has been collecting coins since the moment he had some spare change in his pocket. Growing up in Montreal and not being able to afford rare and expensive pieces, the young collector hoarded all coins that were different and caught his eye.



Giuseppe Iorio (left) and a volunteer (right), going through the morning routine of organizing coins and opening the store. PHOTO BY EVAN HAGEDORN

Like many collectors, Iorio had a passion for coin collecting and wanted to make a career out of it, however he quickly realized opening a successful shop in Montreal wasn't possible due to the saturated market. In compensation, the coin collector became a banker — a job which harnessed his passion for coins and money.

However, in 1971 after quitting

his banking job, Iorio moved west to Vancouver to open Chantou Coin and Stamps first location on Richards and Hastings.

Since then the store has moved from three locations.

Looking back on his history within the coin business, Iorio has minimal regrets regarding opening a coin shop, and hasn't lost his passion for the hobby.

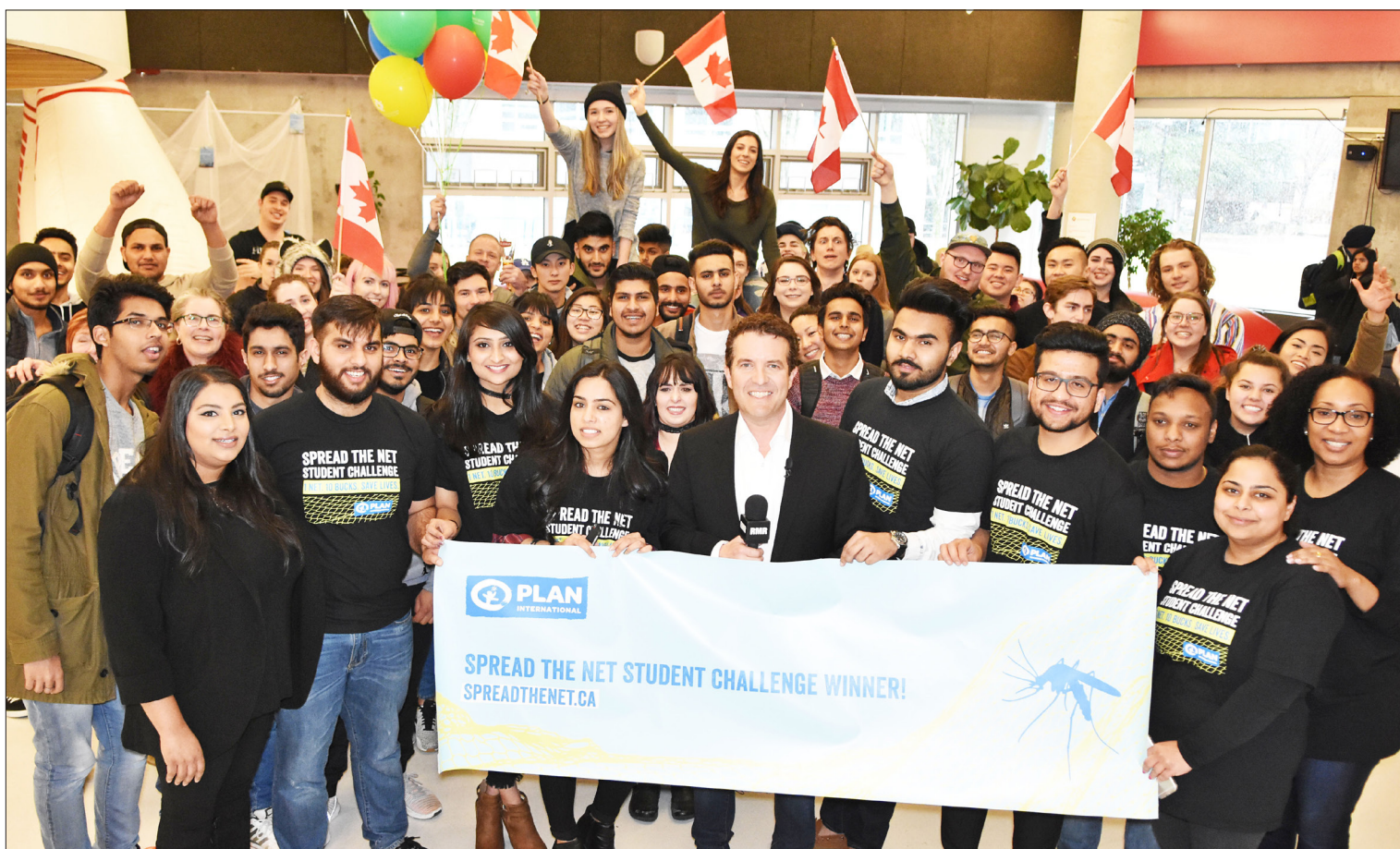
"The only thing that made me think twice about opening the business, is every year I have to pay the property tax," said Iorio. "I don't understand how a small business can open up and succeed."

Being new to Vancouver and having a business succeed was all Iorio needed, although the business was nearing closure not because of high taxes, but due to a break in. The incident occurred in the first months of opening and with the high valued collectibles stolen, the business was on the verge of closure.

The tough times weren't over, as the coin business as a whole has been hit hard by the innovations of technology, which has taken the kids out of coin collecting.

Iorio explained that when he opened the business, many kids and families involved, however video games have taken that aspect away.

Another factor which has pulled the youth out of the hobby, is the lack of involvement from schools. Iorio explained, that in his younger days' schools would offer a coin and stamp clubs so like-minded collectors like himself could discuss their collections and trade between one another.



Rick Mercer poses with students at Langara College March 7, 2017 SUBMITTED PHOTO

College nets charity prize

More than \$14,000 given to Plan International to help fight malaria in Africa

■ By SHOJI WHITTIER

Langara has won Rick Mercer's Spread the Net student challenge, donating almost \$15,000 to fight malaria in Africa.

Spread the Net is a charity program established by Rick Mercer of *Rick Mercer Report* and non-profit organization Plan International Canada, a chapter of the global non-profit organization which aims to improve the lives of children and families in developing countries. The goal of the program is to raise money for anti-malaria mosquito nets for households in Africa.

Malaria kills approximately 429,000 people each year worldwide (World Health Organization), and until recently was the leading cause of death of

children in Africa.

Langara donated \$14,695, which is more money than any other post-secondary school in Canada. Mercer visited Langara on March 7 to thank the college for their donations.

According to Mercer during his interview with CBC, Langara has been donating to Spread the Net for several years.

"[Langara has] been involved in Spread the Net for quite a while. They've been fundraising for years now, but this is the first time they've won the post-secondary category," Mercer said.

Many Langara students believe Spread the Net is a cause worth donating to.

Journalism program applicant Mira Galperin is planning on going to Africa this summer, and understands the need

for anti-malaria nets. She thinks it was good for Langara College to donate the money.

"I'm actually going to Africa and Asia, so I know the whole malaria scare that's going on there," Galperin said. "I've been prescribed malaria pills for three months."

Massage therapy student Sarah Houtman missed Mercer's visit, but said she believes the money was well donated.

"I think that's awesome, yeah, I think it's a great cause," Houtman said. "[but] honestly I have no concept of what goes on around here, which is bad as I'm a student, but we're so busy."

Mercer featured Langara, as well as the winning high school and elementary school on *Rick Mercer Report* Tuesday evening.

MALARIA NUMBERS WORLDWIDE

Half the world at risk

In 2015 there was an estimated 212 million global malaria cases.

Children at risk

More than two-thirds of all malaria deaths occur in children under five years old.

Numbers dropping

Since 2010 malaria rates have fallen globally by 29 per cent.

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

More nursing bursaries

Nursing department responds to dramatic increase in students seeking help

■ By VIOLETTA KRYAK

This week, Langara College's nursing department is launching a fundraiser for bursaries to support nursing students in financial need. This is the first year the department will be fundraising money and is a response to the high demand for financial aid from nursing students.

Denise Thomas is an instructor in the nursing program who is working on the fundraiser, called Code Orange, a brand new project to raise funds for nursing student bursaries.

"We decided to respond to the increase in requests for financial aid dollars, which happened during the summer," said Thomas. "I think the increase was almost 42 per cent by the nursing students, which is more than any other program at the college."

Code Orange is made up from people from the Langara marketing team and nursing faculty members.

Kyle Yrjola is a student in the nursing program, who started working on the fundraising project through being a part of the Student Nurse Advocacy Program.

He said Code Orange is a great way to help nursing students, because the program is very tight and does not allow for a stable job.

"I felt very out of control with that, because I no longer was able to keep up my finances, that's when I started applying for bursaries," said Yrjola. "It has made a huge difference in my experience at Langara, being able to have this kind of financial security."

Thomas said the goal is to raise \$25,000 for nursing student bursaries.



Kyle Yrjola
LANGARA NURSING
STUDENT

Langara's Master Plan still up in the air



The cafeteria in Building A is in need of seismic upgrades according to a college board memo. DUNCAN ANDERSON PHOTO

Building A's future uncertain as college mulls seismic upgrades

■ By DUNCAN ANDERSON

Studio 58 is eager to pack up and move to Granville Island along with Langara's fine arts department, to be relocated as the college works to bring Building A up to seismic code.

The theatre program, located in the bowels of the 1970-built concrete facility, has long wanted more suitable digs but where it will go when the building is vacated remains unclear.

Kathryn Shaw, Artistic Director of Studio 58, said as far as she knows, the plans for moving Studio 58 to Granville Island are still up in the air.

"If that could happen, I think everyone would be delighted," Shaw said.

Shaw said the Langara theatre space has water leaks, no backstage space, and its classes lack natural light, among other

issues. She suggested that Langara is awaiting funding from the province before making definite plans.

According to a memo issued by vice president of administration and finance, Victor Sokha, the condition of Building A is currently hindering the quality of teaching and learning. Sokha wrote that the reputation of the Studio 58 program is jeopardized by the condition of Building A, and may move to Emily Carr University of Art + Design.

The college hasn't announced whether it will simply remediate Building A or demolish it. According to the memo, a "request for funding to the Ministry of Advanced Education for a new Creative Arts building or upgrading Building 'A' have not been successful."

Because of "concern over the aging infrastructure of Building A," the College Board is spending \$600,000 on consulting fees as part of an update to the plan, halfway through Langara's 25-year Master Plan, according to the memo.

Attached to the agenda for an upcoming board meeting this Thursday, the memo outlines a number of issues necessitating an update of the Master Plan. According to the agenda, a seismic evaluation done on Building A in August 2010 by the

City of Vancouver suggested it is unsafe in the event of an earthquake, having many "non-structural elements that may affect shift, move, or collapse during an earthquake."

Victoria Gibson, a student in the publishing department also located in Building A, said that she is mostly happy with the facilities in her department.

"I don't have any issues," she said.



Students in Building A
SEAN HITREC PHOTO



Clockwise from left: Oyster Catcher Rattle is a part of Dick's prized work. He displays two of his well-known masks. SUBMITTED PHOTO DOUGLAS REYNOLDS GALLERY

Carving legend mourned

First Nations artist and advocate Beau Dick, will be missed

■ By CASSANDRA OSBORNE

Renowned and well-loved Kwakwaka'wakw artist Beau Dick died Tuesday morning at the age of 61.

Before his death, Dick's art was to be featured in Documenta 14, which Scott Watson, director of the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery at UBC, said was "like the Olympics of the art world."

The carved masks would have been worn by 30 dancers in a traditional Kwakwaka'wakw dance at the Acropolis in Athens.

Dick was a hereditary chief of the 'Namgis First Nation in Alert Bay, BC.

He was also politically active, and participated in the shaming ceremony at Parliament Hill in 2013 that brought to attention the strained relationship between First Nations and the federal government.

Peter Lattimer, owner of Vancouver's Lattimer Gallery, knew Beau since childhood. Just yesterday Lattimer received one of Dick's masks to sell on consignment.

"He was able to capture expressions

on faces, whether it was portrait masks or animal masks, that really nobody else is able to do," Lattimer said.

"He was always offering a hug and a smile, willing to share his knowledge."

—PETER LATTIMER, GALLERY OWNER

Jill Baird, Curator of education and public programs at the UBC Museum of Anthropology, said Dick was an important figure and "a fantastic human being."

"He was both an artist and a chief in his cultural traditions, but he was also an activist in trying to make a change in the world for indigenous people," she said.

"He was always offering a hug and a smile, willing to share his knowledge."

Carey Newman, Dick's relative, said although some people put his cousin on a pedestal, Dick was good at making people feel at ease. Newman recalled the first time he danced at a potlatch.

"I was nervous and scared and vulnerable, and his words and his kindness made me feel completely at ease," he said, "and helped me to slip into the character of the dance I was doing, to really be present at the ceremony. He had a lot of magic."

His work is currently displayed in the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, QC.

Local photo journos saluted

Journalists are needed more today than ever, say photographers

■ By VIOLETTA KRYAK

An exhibition showcasing works of some of the best Canadian news photographers is on display at the Pendulum Gallery March 20-April 14.

The News Photographers Association of Canada put on the show for the public to have a direct connection to the stories photojournalists cover.

"It falls within our mandate and it is a popular show with the public," said Chris Heatley, who is the Pendulum Gallery coordinator.

"What I think is really important about this now is making sure that there is strong ethics in photojournalism and making sure you are telling the right story.

"It helps educate people."

—JOHN LEHMANN, PHOTOJOURNALIST

John Lehmann, a Vancouver photojournalist, who is one of the finalists, said the exhibition makes a point that this generation is the most visually literate.

"It helps educate people to what is considered good quality photojournalism," he said.

He argues a picture is more important than the words.

"Words can accompany the image; I don't think it should be images accompanying the story," Lehmann said.

Ali Ledgerwood, executive director of NPAC, said the showcase has been well received by the public and people relate to a visual story.

"I've had people come to the opening night, because they said that this was their favorite exhibition," said Ledgerwood. "My understanding is this is one of the biggest draws."

Today especially strong photojournalism ethics is vital in the industry Ledgerwood said.

She added some newspapers don't really understand that the photo tells the story more than the words do.

"Even if you go digital, you have got to remember that its image driven, it's not going to be words first," Ledgerwood said. "It's not about the clickbait, it's actually about the content."



[Left to right] Headliner Simon King said being able to use his art for good has given him a lot. Mark Hughes hopes to continue to fundraising. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Using laughter to fight addiction

How one man decided to advocate for the opioid crisis

■ By CASS LUCKE

Local comedian Mark Hughes is helping solve Vancouver's illicit drug overdose crisis one laugh at a time.

As a recovering addict himself who

has lost people to overdose, Hughes organized a second safe injection comedy fundraiser at Pat's Pub Brewhouse last night, after the first in December. The aim is to raise money for emergency services provided by the Overdose Prevention Society.

After seven drug-free years, Hughes began using comedy as a creative outlet in 2013 and believes it takes the edge off of life.

"It's a dark time for people involved in this issue," Hughes said in regards to the opioid overdose crisis, "I know I've turned to laughter during lots of times where I've struggled."

"The tents are important because they're solidifying ways, not to punish people for [their addiction], but to help them along the way with it," local comic Chris James said. "It recognizes it as a medical condition rather than a criminal problem."

Karmik is an organization that offers free naloxone training and informed the show's audience of their services. The venue provided free space for the comics, many of whom have dealt with or are currently dealing with addiction.

Melanie Rose, a local Vancouver comic, has been clean for nine months and performed at the event.

"When everybody's laughing, they either have done it or know someone who has," Rose said.

"I think keeping it light, you can say more painful things without having people turn their heads," she added.

The show's closing act was Simon King, who believes these events add a face to usually marginalized situations, and keeps the conversation going.

"Unless you're a drug user or work with them, [the drug crisis] doesn't get into your radar," King said.

"It's about letting people know that the situation isn't solved just because it's not on the front page."

LOCAL JOURNALISM RAPIDLY DEPLETING

»Losing jobs

Since 2010, 225 weekly and 75 daily papers have shut their doors or merged with others in Canada.

»Industry shrinking

One third of journalism jobs have been lost in the last six years in Canada.

»Part-time work

74 per cent of Canadian journalists need outside income to pay their bills, said 2013 study.

SOURCE: THE PUBLIC POLICY FORUM



Clockwise left-right: Instructor Alex Connolly does a back bend after teaching the Femme Fit class; Roberta Hayes poses on the pole after teaching a class; Hayes demonstrating a move to the beginners class at AVA Fitness.
LAURA BROUGHAM PHOTOS

Pole dancing revolution

Views about pole dancing are shifting, says dance instructor

■ By LAURA BROUGHAM

Entering a room with one wall covered in a black sheet and fairy lights, with multiple poles throughout the room, might be unusual, but not at AVA Fitness.

The fitness centre offers several pole and aerial dancing classes, capturing a growing market in Vancouver. Alex Connolly, a pole dancing instructor at the New Westminster studio and co-owner at the second, soon-to-open AVA Fitness location, said the pole dancing community is an accepting and welcoming place for women.

"I was just really inspired by the community and how it encourages women

to root for each other's rise, and their physical, actual, literal rise up the pole," Connolly said.

She said the pole dancing community supports and motivates women, rather than focusing on the negatives.

"We live in a society where women are constantly told to judge each other and bring each other down," Connolly said. "In the pole community, it's completely opposite."

Pole fitness classes originated in

the 90s from Canadian-born Fawnia Monney and have grown in popularity.

There are now provincial and national pole dancing competitions and the next

national competition will take place June 10 in Vancouver.

Roberta Hayes, a fitness instructor at AVA Fitness, said the stigma around the

sport has shifted due to the change in the public perception of women.

"There's been a cultural shift in general, with the growth in awareness

of sexism and exotic dance and feminism," said Hayes. "There's a general consciousness shift that's gone on and also we're getting better and better with women being sexual over time."

Cyenne Nisbett, a student at AVA Fitness, said that even within her own family there is stigma against it.

She often faces criticism when she posts things online, she said, and she's had family members ask her what will happen when she tries to find work in the future.

"I've definitely encountered the stigma and it blows my mind," Nisbett said.

AVA Fitness is opening a second studio on Oak and Broadway this Saturday, April 1.

"We live in a society where women are constantly told to judge each other and bring each other down."

—ALEX CONNOLLY, POLE DANCE INSTRUCTOR

Thrift shopping for motorcyclists

Motorcycle riders and fashionistas seek used gear

■ By CHRISTOPHER THOROSKI

Riders are not only saving money but they are enhancing their wardrobe as well, thanks to a motorcycle shop that sells second-hand gear.

East Side Re-Rides, located just off Main Street and 16th, is the only second-hand motorcycle gear store in the Lower Mainland. Nearly everything sold at the store is on consignment and it has been this way for the last eight years.

Elaine Miller, owner of the store, was introduced to motorcycles at the age of 14. She bought East Side Re-Rides six years ago.



Elaine Miller, owner of East Side Re-Rides, with biker boots. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Miller believes that it is an exciting time because many people are searching for vintage one-of-a-kind pieces all while trying to stay safe on the road.

"Many people are trying to spike that balance between feeling free and being safe," Miller said.

Additionally, different riders come to the store for different reasons. Some experienced riders shop for style. Those who are just beginning to ride shop for safety.

However, according to ICBC, motorcycle crashes are on the rise in B.C.

In 2011 there was a recorded 2,000 incidents but in 2015 that number jumped up to 2,600. Over the course of that five-year period, the average number of fatal crashes was 32.

Doreen Walmsley, the owner of Ducati Richmond and a motorcycle enthusiast, said people choose not to wear proper gear, not because of cost, but due to personal preference.

"Gear is actually quite reasonably priced especially compared to medical costs if you crash," Walmsley said. "There's no reason not to wear gear."

Spencer Johnston, an employee at East Side Re-Rides, said that it's becoming a lot more popular for people to buy used gear because the price point is much better than regular retail.

"There is an economic trend lately of retail shops making less and less money as people buy online," Johnston said. "It's a community and a lifestyle promoted here . . . it's something that an online presence can't recreate."

Electric cars in the spotlight

Autoshow highlights green technology, drawing bigger crowds each year to test drive

■ By KURTIS GREGORY

The 2017 Vancouver International Autoshow is expecting a growing interest in green vehicles this year and is trying to help normalize electric vehicles by highlighting green technology improvements within the industry.

Blair Qualey, president and CEO of the New Car Dealers Association of British Columbia who hosts the auto show, said that displaying and allowing for test drives is an effective way of addressing the anxiety consumers have regarding vehicle range.

"Range anxiety has always been a big issue for people and we thought this is a great way to answer some of those questions, give people a chance to get in one, try it out and see that it's just like any car," Qualey said.

Every year the number of people who test-drive electric and green vehicles doubles, according to Qualey, and he expects that trend will continue into the future.

According to Green Car Reports, plug-in vehicles have been growing as percentage share of the Canadian car market from just .03 per cent in 2011 to as high as .48 per cent in 2016.

The Canadian Green Car of the Year was announced on Tuesday, just hours before the first day of the show. The award went to the Toyota Prius outfitted with the Technology Package, a hybrid that gets 100 kilometres to the litre.

Last years winner, the 2016 Chevrolet Volt, is a fully electric vehicle that gets 85 kilometres on a charge.

The NCDA has been working with the provincial government to make access to price deductibles easier through the Clean Energy Vehicles for British Columbia program.

The program offers up to a \$5,000 discount on eligible plug in and hybrid vehicles under \$77,000 and \$6,000 off of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

While these deductibles are available for most electric cars, the Tesla Model S, the second most popular EV in Canada, was dropped from the list when the price limit was imposed on March 2, 2016.

ELECTRIC CARS IN VANCOUVER

70%

Increase in electric vehicle sales year-to-year in Vancouver since 2011.

30

Electric vehicles owned by the City of Vancouver, the largest fleet in Canada.

250+

Charging stations across the city, from parking lots to shopping malls and other locations.

SOURCE: CITY OF VANCOUVER

Winter shelters a 'short-term solution'

■ By DUNCAN ANDERSON

The City of Vancouver is closing nine cold weather shelters by the end of the month, forcing at least 250 people back to living on the streets.

The city justifies the closures by saying that they were emergency shelters for the winter months and are no longer necessary for the rest of the year.

Last month, I volunteered for B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association and rationed goods into packages that were handed out to homeless people to figure out a count.

The federal government funded these packages consisting of cigarettes, candy and forms for the homeless to sign to facilitate the count.

On the one hand, the project is a radical undercount because it is seasonal. It would surprise me if the result of this project was accurate.

There are probably better ways to monitor how many homeless people there are in Vancouver. For example, a byname list tool to provide coordinated access to housing.

Once we know people's personal information, we can pair them with appropriate services. The fact that the province collected anonymous data does not help the cause.

The amount spent on counting people was enough to purchase a housing unit. That is not to say funding isn't well managed or resourced, because it does take a lot of money to figure out how many homeless people there really are in Vancouver.

However, homeless shelters the province provides in the winter is a response to a desperate situation. Shelters are a short-term solution and on their own, they prolong the state of homelessness.

While acknowledging that creating housing units is necessary to all of these issues, I think tackling mental health and addiction would be a longer-term solution. It all starts with a place that people can call home and once people are housed, then responses to mental health and addiction can be created.

It's disturbing that housing for middle-income class people is sometimes seemingly prioritized over homelessness.

It's a real issue and we are going to continue to see fatalities if these blatantly obvious issues aren't addressed properly.

Legal heroin: the serious fix

■ By SAM MOWERS

Heroin-assisted treatment is a proven step in the right direction, but to end the opioid crisis in Vancouver, drugs like heroin should simply be legalized.

These programs use controlled injections of pharmaceutical grade heroin to opiate addicts as a means of treatment. When heroin-assisted treatment was tried in Vancouver between 2005 and 2008, it saw a 70 per cent

reduction in illegal heroin use among participants. The treatment would be helpful in dealing with the opioid crisis, but legalizing all drugs would be a more comprehensive solution.

During Prohibition in the U.S., when the production and consumption of alcohol was made illegal, there was a consequent rise in illegal liquor production (bootlegging) and unregulated drinking spots (speakeasies).

This black market also gave rise to criminal activity and gang violence. Once Prohibition was repealed, crime and incarceration rates fell, new jobs

were created and tax revenue increased. This same principle could apply when extended to other illegal substances such as heroin.

Prohibition-era liquor was unsafe to drink, because it was produced in an unregulated environment. This is not unlike the unregulated production of heroin which has led to the deadly presence of fentanyl.

If legalized, the production and distribution of heroin could be regulated by the government, which could eliminate the risk of drugs tainted with fen-

tanyl. One of the effects of legalization, however, would be the opening of the market to competition from new producers and sellers.

Given that competition, in general, drives down the price of the product, this might actually encourage people to use dangerous substances. But the negative effects of drugs are well known, and can be reinforced through education. After all, affordable alcohol causes many problems, but it is not comparable to Prohibition.

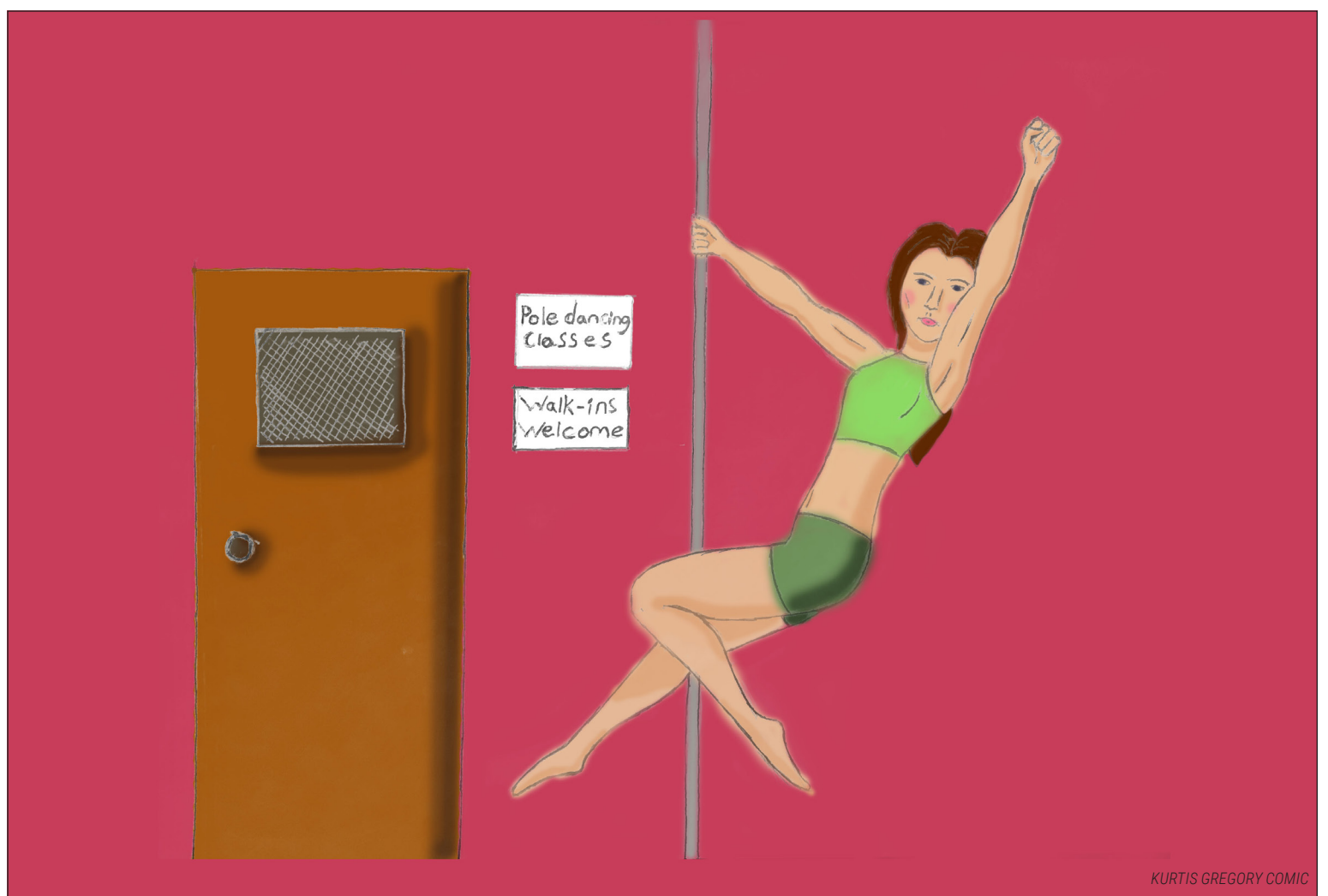
Last year in B.C., 922 people died from overdoses and the number is looking larger for this year. Heroin-assisted treatment programs are undoubtedly effective, but if we really want to save lives and reduce crime, we have to seriously consider legalizing drugs like heroin.



OPINION

SAM MOWERS

"To end the opioid crisis in Vancouver, drugs like heroin should simply be legalized."



KURTIS GREGORY COMIC

Get on the pole, or stop judging the dancers who do

■ By KRISTYN ANTHONY

I have never been the sort of person who enjoys sweating it out alongside chiseled bodies, in a sea of treadmills while TV's flash unrealistic images of bodies out at me.

Needless to say, I've never been a gym rat. But, as I get older my fitness levels creep closer to the front of my mind each year. I grew up playing baseball and hockey

and figure skating.

Gliding across the ice never felt much like a sport to me; it wasn't work, I enjoyed every second of it and it tapped into the feminine side of me that wasn't really present elsewhere.

The rise of pole dancing, both as a

sport and a fitness regime, has grown since it travelled from the stages of seedy

watering holes to become a regular on community centre activity boards. Stigma can be a thorn in the side of progress.

As we learn to relax stringent societal traditions around everything from gen-

der to sexuality to artistic expression, activities like pole dancing give people the freedom to get fit and have fun while they're doing it.

While pole dancing isn't exclusive to the female population, it is a community that values support, motivation and body positivity for women. The world is a cold place and often our harshest critics are women – other women and the one we see in the mirror every day.

In the same way figure skating provided a creative and artistic sporting activity for me, pole dancing is providing that for others. It's meant to be a safe space, where it's okay to exhibit sexuality, creative expression, sport and fitness free of judgement or intimidation.

Where else can you do all that?



OPINION

KRISTYN ANTHONY

"Pole dancing... has grown since it travelled from the stages of seedy watering holes to become a regular on community centre activity boards."

the Voice

The Voice is published by Langara College's journalism department. Editorial opinions are those of the staff and are independent of views of the student

government and administration. We welcome letters to the editor. They may be edited for brevity. Your letter must include your name and phone number.

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Walking, texting & talking

Multi-tasking sidewalk pedestrians may share part of the blame in accidents

■ By SHOJI WHITTIER

March is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, so distracted pedestrians are not getting much attention from ICBC.

Last fall, an Insights West poll showed that 66 per cent of Canadians would support legislation to prohibit distracted walking, or being distracted by a hand-held cellphone while on a roadway.

According to ICBC, about 2,400 pedestrians were injured in crashes in B.C. over the past five years. Sam Corea, ICBC's senior communications specialist, says it's unknown how many of those incidents involved distracted pedestrians.

"When you're reporting a pedestrian being hurt, it's kind of difficult to find out because there's no claim there at that point, unless there's a claim attached to the vehicle," Corea said.

However, students at Langara are

"People don't have the hand eye coordination."

—JOSIAH MORRIS, STUDENT

frustrated by distracted pedestrians.

Peace and conflicts student, Josiah Morris, said he thinks most people can't handle walking and talking on their phones.

"People don't have the hand eye coordination to do all these things at once," Morris said. He said they need to learn to walk down the street, have a conversation, and still be aware of cars going 40-50 kilometres per hour.

Others, like Women's Studies student Naiah Albacea, take note of when and where they check their phones when out on the street.

"Whenever I walk, I make sure there's no one around me, if there's like a bunch of people, I try not to do it as much," Albacea said.



Susan Boyd, from the University of Victoria, fields a question about heroin-assisted therapy during a panel discussion hosted by Simon Fraser University on Monday night. SASHA LAKIC PHOTO

Stopping OD deaths first

Group seeks more heroin-assisted treatment options

■ By SASHA LAKIC

As fentanyl continues to kill drug users in British Columbia, physicians and activists are piloting a heroin-assisted treatment that may help reduce the death toll.

At a discussion at SFU campus in Gastown on Monday night, those activists presented their recommendations to stop opioid overdoses. Clinical trials with hydromorphone, commonly known as Dilaudid, showed that both the crime and the risks associated with injecting opioids are reduced when these drugs are administered in a safe environment. However, the panel said stigma still prevents these methods from being widely used.

D. Scott MacDonald, lead physician at the Providence Crosstown Clinic,

said they are trying to stop people from dying.

"Abstinence is not the goal of hydromorphone therapy."

He said the licensed drug is as effective as pharmaceutical heroin, and that instances of street-acquired opioids fall dramatically, in communities where this therapy has been used. It may also be a more cost effective use of public funds. MacDonald said that tax payers would pay \$27,000 per year for someone who is in a therapy program as opposed to \$45,000 per year for a person who buys drugs on the street.

"There needs to be medical intervention that is part of health care," he said. He would like to see interventions become part of the provincial approach to treating drug addiction.

Dave Murray, who represents an advocacy group made up of participating trial patients called Solome/Naomi

Association of Patients, said heroin-assisted treatment has been used successfully in Switzerland, and would like to see it used here. He said if that Dilaudid works for the patients in the trial, it should be used more widely.

Previous attempts to introduce medical intervention were met with legal challenges by the federal government, which argued that public safety was at risk with easier access to drugs. In alliance with the Providence clinic and participating patients, Douglas King, lawyer with the PIVOT legal society, started a constitutional challenge in 2013 on the basis that the government was discriminating against people with disabilities and putting them at risk.

Despite the criticism leveled on our current government, King said the one thing they did right was to openly allow for heroin-assisted treatment in Vancouver.

ADDICTION REPOSE THE COST TO TAXPAYERS

» \$45,000

The cost to taxpayers for health-care, legal costs and other cost for a single user of illicit drugs.

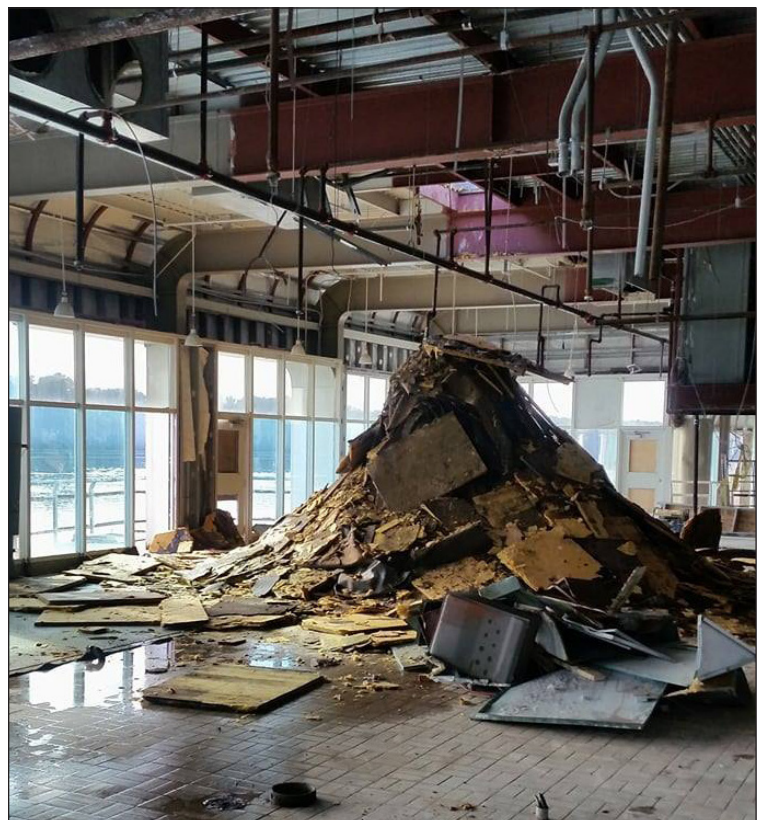
» \$25,000

The cost per patient at the Crosstown clinic.

» \$150,000

Estimated savings to taxpayers if harm reduction and therapy are used to help treat drug addicts.

SOURCE: PROVIDENCE HEALTH CARE



Renovations are underway inside the McBarge: a pile of foam, metal, and wood are piled inside the main area. SUBMITTED PHOTO

McBarge still unmoored

Floating fast-food restaurant may drop anchor in new harbour

■ By LAURA BROUGHAM

McBarge may have started as a fast-food outlet, but there are no fast answers about its business future.

The barge, originally built as the first floating McDonalds for Vancouver's Expo '86, moved to Maple Ridge for renovations after mooring in Burrard Inlet for 30 years. Howard Meakin bought the barge in 1999. He is nearly ready to share the changes on the horizon for the McBarge (Friendship 500).

"It's an exciting venue, it's world class," Meakin said. "It will appeal to all people and all countries."

Tight-lipped Meakin did say is that

the barge will look different than people remember.

"The roof has to be completely replaced, and we're putting a new roof-deck on it, and it will actually have quite a nice display area on the roof deck as well."

He didn't give details. "That's the secret," Meakin laughed.

David Eaton, the architect working on the project, said two places are being considered to anchor the barge.

"We're looking at two locations, both have different timelines, both have different aspects to them that make them quite unique in their solutions," said Eaton.

Suzan Stamenkovic, a travel account manager at Brave New World Travel, used to work on the McBarge, and said that she hopes they return the barge to False Creek, as a way to honour the Expo.

"I would actually really like to see it back in False Creek, and turned back into a McDonalds," Stamenkovic said in an email. "Looking at the area now, you can't even tell there was a World Exposition there. This would be a perfect reminder, be a 'living' reminder of what was and how exciting and lively the city was then."

For those curious about McBarge's future, Eaton said, "Stay tuned, I guess that's all we can tell you."

"Looking at the area now, you can't even tell there was a World Exposition there. This [barge] would be a perfect reminder."

—SUZAN STAMENKOVIC
TRAVEL MANAGER

Runner dazzles at worlds

Young cross-country racer caps record season in Uganda

■ By RICA TALAY

Just a year ago Kieran Lumb had no idea he was going to be competing in the IAAF World Cross Country Championships in Kampala, Uganda.

On March 26, Lumb placed 14th with Team Canada in the under-20 men's division.

This caps off a meteoric rise in the young UBC student's running career.

"It's a big milestone to me, in the sense it's one of my first big world championship races and second international race," Lumb said. "It's the biggest race I've ever raced in."

Along with placing 14th in the team division, 18-year-old Lumb, who is a freshman at UBC, was the top runner from Team Canada finishing the eight-km course in 26:21, placing 54th.

"I was pretty happy with [placing 54th]," Lumb said.

"That's pretty much the best race I could've run with the pace I ran."

Lumb's coach Chris Johnson said he was very pleased with Lumb's performance at the championship.

"I was only surprised at how quickly it happened, not that it did happen," Johnson said.

"I thought it might take a little longer to reach the accomplishment he's reached, so that speaks to his talent."

To get used to the humidity and heat in Uganda, Lumb had to do heat acclimatization training at

the Lululemon headquarters on Cornwall Ave.

His training consisted of having to run on a treadmill inside a sauna twice a week.

Since the top cross-country runners come from East African countries, Lumb said it was intimidating to run in the same race with some of the best runners in the world.

"The East African countries are so

dominant that you kind of have to realize that it's not a race against them but it's a race against the people around you," Lumb said.

Len Catling, the media spokesperson for

UBC's department of athletics and recreation, said he was surprised at how quickly Lumb's has risen to success.

"We're very excited that he's going to be running for UBC for the next four to five years," Catling said.

Besides being a cross country runner, Lumb is also working towards getting a degree in engineering.

"Sometimes when school gets hard I wish I could just be doing school right now and not think about running and sometimes when running is going really well I wish I could just do running," Lumb said. "But I'm really glad that I have that balance."

Coming from an athletic family, Lumb was introduced to skiing at the age of five and up until this year his main sport was cross country skiing.

According to Johnson, what's next for Lumb is to try to qualify for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Outdoor Track & Field National Championship in May. Right now, recovering from the world championship is the main concern.



"It's a big milestone to me ... It's one of my first big world championships races and second international race. It's the biggest race I've ever raced in."

—KIERAN LUMB, CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNER

Thrill seekers to speak in North Van

TED talks style event to feature local legends in adventure, expedition and extreme sports

■ By SYDNEY MORTON

A former triathlete battling Lyme disease is one of the speakers at FEAT Canada, a evening of speeches for adventure seekers.

Kirsten Sweetland, an Olympic triathlete began her career at seven years old, and mountain climber Greg Fowleraker are two of nine accomplished speakers who will share their journeys pursuing their dreams at a March 30 FEAT Canada, which stands for Fascinating Expedition & Adventure Talks.

Over Sweetland's 20-year career as a triathlete she has faced several setbacks, most recently a diagnosis of Lyme disease resulting in her retirement from triathlon competitions. Sweetland said she remains positive and focuses on what she can still do, such as mountain biking, instead of what she no longer can.

"One of the things I am trying to

"Maybe I can inspire people to take things in stride and help consider how to take a setback."

—KIRSTEN SWEETLAND, SPEAKER

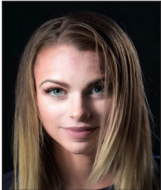
drive home is that things like this don't have to be a sentence, and maybe I can inspire people to take things in stride, and help consider how to take a setback," Sweetland said.

Fowleraker finds inspiration from the way new generations build upon what past generations have, to rework it to something better. Fowleraker has climbed all over the world and is celebrated for several first ascents. He will speak at FEAT Canada in the hopes of passing on his knowledge to inspire the next generation's imagination.

"Climbing is a metaphor for a creative endeavour and I have always liked how one generation imagines something and then 10 years later the next generation comes and ups the game," Fowleraker said.

Sean Verret, founder of FEAT Canada, started the series to inspire the audience to challenge themselves and learn from regular people that have done amazing things in their lifetimes.

"It gets people off the couch and gets them out experiencing some amazing talks, for the speakers it helps them with storytelling, sometimes with our digital worlds we don't get out and tell stories anymore," Verret said. "It's a slightly different type of event and it's



Kirsten Sweetland
FEAT SPEAKER

Backcountry safer this season

Adventurers in the backcountry are more aware and prepared

■ By JASON GILDER

The snowy conditions caught many Vancouverites by surprise, but backcountry skiers and snowboarders were well-equipped for this season's weather.

Although this winter brought unusual amounts of snowfall, accidents and injuries on the backcountry of local mountains did not see an uptick. Despite Canadian snowboarding star Mark McMorris' severe accident in Whistler on Saturday, backcountry incidents are falling even as the popularity of these activities rises.

Mike Danks, team leader of North Shore Rescue, said they did not receive as many emergency calls as they expected with this season's snowfall. He attributes the low rate of incidents to the preparedness of Vancouver's backcountry skiers and snowboarders.

"They usually prepare themselves," Danks said. "They have their avalanche



Members of North Shore Rescue performing a rescue on the North Shore mountains, one of 11 calls they got this winter season. SUBMITTED PHOTO

know where they are going."

North Shore Rescue received 11 calls involving skiers and snowboarders this winter, of these two were medical calls and one was a buried backcountry skier on Cypress Mountain who suffered multiple injuries. Avalanche Canada, who track fatalities, had only one person killed in an avalanche in

the Callaghan Valley this season. Two snowshoers who went missing around Cypress Mountain in January have still not been found.

Backcountry activities are increasingly popular, at the same time there has been a slight decrease in fatalities from avalanches according to James Floyer, forecasting program supervisor at Ava-

lanche Canada. Floyer and others in the industry say this is due to increased awareness and preparedness.

"There's a lot more people out there and fewer accidents," said Paul Steele, owner of Backcountry Skiing Canada. "That's a good thing that people are getting educated."

In his work with Avalanche Canada, Floyer has seen a culture shift happen over the past ten years.

"People are more aware, typically, and they typically have access to better equipment and it's become a cultural norm to go out with that equipment and be prepared," Floyer said.

Wilson Edgar, president of the BC Mountaineers Club, has advice for anyone considering participating in backcountry skiing and snowboarding.

"We hope that when people go out into the backcountry, they take the appropriate courses and that they carry the appropriate gear to ensure their own safety," Edgar said.

SAFETY TIPS BACKCOUNTRY PREPAREDNESS

1. Check forecast

Know the conditions where you are going and be prepared.

2. Get the gear

Each person should have the essential avalanche equipment to perform a rescue; avalanche transceiver, probe and shovel.

3. Get training

Avalanche Canada advises to take a two-day avalanche skills-training course to get the basics.

SOURCE: AVALANCHE CANADA

"It's become a cultural norm to go out with...equipment and be prepared."

—JAMES FLOYER, FORECASTING PROGRAM SUPERVISOR, AVALANCHE CANADA

safety equipment, an idea of where they are going and they've let somebody